



"Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man."

REARING FISH.

We have often called the attention of our readers to this subject, because, in the first place, it is easily practicable. Fish can be reared, when you are prepared for it, as easy as you can raise chickens, and some kinds easier. In the next place, the business may be made, in many places, pleasant and profitable. We are aware that on the seaboard it will be said,—"Oh, the sea is full of them, let them rear themselves and we'll catch them. And in the interior, among the lakes, and ponds, and streams, many will say,—let Nature rear the fish and we will take them as we want them. Notwithstanding all this, there are places in this State, even on the seaboard, where the rearing of certain kinds of fish might be made profitable.

There is no trouble, when you can find the eggs deposited in the sand or mud, in taking them with a proper quantity of sand or mud and water, and carrying them where you please, depositing them in troughs, or shallow water, and have them hatch out by warmth of the sun. If you cannot obtain the eggs, a pair of the fish, caught and confined at their proper period of spawning would supply you with eggs.

The Salmon is fast disappearing from among us. Why may they not be as successfully reared in many parts of Maine as they have been in other parts of the world? The following facts from an English paper, will corroborate our assertions and may be interesting to many.

"The Perth Courier has now recorded facts which have entirely set at rest the misgivings of certain writers as to the practicability of breeding salmon by artificial means; and in order that the full bearing of the interesting results may be more completely seen, our intelligent contemporary has traced the progress of this wonderful experiment from the beginning, from which it appears that in November and December, 1853, about 300,000 of ova were deposited in the boxes at Stormfield, near Perth. In April and May, 1854, the hatching took place, and on the 15th of April little fish were first observed at large in the troughs. In June, 1854, the tiny inmates of the boxes, having generally attained the size of about an inch and a half in length, were introduced to the larger sphere of the pond, where for twelve months they were carefully tended and fed. In May and June of this year, 1855, several of the fry having then reached the condition of smolts, were marked and liberated, about one in a hundred being the proportion so marked. Some of these little things remained in the pond, while others proceeded seawards. The very largest of the smolts which left the place of their nativity in May and June, measured only about seven inches in length, and weighing from 1½ oz. to 1 oz. A few have returned from the sea, after an absence of about two months, weighing respectively 3½ lbs., 5 lbs., 7½ lbs., 7½ lbs. One of the marked fish from the pond at Stormfield was caught in the Tay, opposite the Waterhouse, about ten o'clock on Wednesday night, the last inst. Its weight was about 6½ lbs., and measured 2 feet three inches in length, and 1 foot 2 inches in circumference. The Stirling Journal states that one of these marked fish was caught on a fishing pole in the Forth. It weighed 9½ lbs., and is the largest of those propagated in the salmon-beds that has yet been caught. Another, we understand, was caught last Wednesday in the Earn. The number of fish that left the pond as smolts in the beginning of June, was about 200,000."

SAWDUST FOR BEDDING.

During a short sojourn in Ohio, we visited most of the liveable stables, and found that the only bedding in use was sawdust. The proprietors of each stable all testified that it was far superior to hay or straw; and in these times of scarcity, it must be certain localities, be more economical. Without doubt, sawdust absorbs a large amount of urine, and also its ammonia gas; preventing the one from saturating the stable floor, and the latter from deteriorating the stable atmosphere.

Sawdust occupies less bulk than straw, and, at the same time, affords as soft a bed; the filth can readily be separated from that which is still useful, and with the admixture of a fair proportion of excrement, forms a valuable fertilizer. Some persons, however, may object to the use of sawdust on account of its absorbent properties, which acting on the horse's hoofs may tend to render them dry and brittle, and utterly impair the function of the same.

Should this be the case, we have only to stiff the hoofs with moist clay, or even wash them a little often, and the evil if it exists, can be remedied.

One half the stable keepers in New England, and elsewhere, have, during the past year, been sorely puzzled to provide sufficient bedding; and unless some better and cheaper material turns up, we would advise the interested to try sawdust. Perhaps the addition of a few shavings might be advantageous; but, try sand.

[Am. Veterinary Journal.]

MAGGOTS IN SHEEP. Giddings Whitmore, of Marshall, Calhoun Co., Michigan, informs us that common house flies applied to the heads of sheep afflicted with vermin, or to the tails of lambs when docked, will cure them. He also says, in answer to the frequent inquiry, "What does the striped squirrel do with the dirt he excavates in making his hole?" that he has seen them repeatedly go away with their cheeks stuffed, and drop the contents in some stream near by, and so continue to work until their task was completed.

[N. E. Farmer.]

KENNEBEC COUNTY AG. SOCIETY.
REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

On Town Teams.

There were three teams presented for our examination, of handsome, well proportioned, rugged and active cattle,—such as the eye of an amateur would never tire in beholding. They were from the towns of East Livermore, Fayette and Wayne.

Last year the contest between East Livermore and Fayette was so close, that it was extremely difficult for the committee to arrive at a correct decision, but the scales finally preponderated in favor of the latter,—still the former, notwithstanding being vanquished last year, has returned to the field this, and we do not hesitate to say has come off conqueror. We recommended to the society's first premium for her thirty-six pairs of oxen.

Fayette presented also thirty-six pairs heavy, well built and sprightly cattle, which we think were not quite equal to the East Livermore team, yet another year may tell a different story. We award to her the society's second premium.

Wayne turned out twenty three pairs some of which excelled any others upon the ground.

One pair owned by Mr. Osgood Graves, particularly, were deserving of notice, girthing seven feet and eight inches, five years of age, well matched, spotted color, weighing upon the scales four thousand and forty pounds, of symmetrical form, and as sleek as an Otter. In regard to them we wish not to flatter but speak what we do know. We adjudge to Wayne the society's third premium, hoping that as she is now last she may soon be first.

In regard to the society's fourth premium your committee are sorry to say that there was no team on which to bestow it. The teams of Winthrop and Mt. Vernon which once held a name among the oxen of the earth, are now numbered among the things that were,—while Readfield who had the honor two years since of carrying off the society's first reward, from some unaccountable cause stands aloof, and chooses to let her beautiful oxen snuff the breezes afar off.

On Horses.

The whole number of stock horses, mares and colts entered for premium, from one year old and upwards, was sixty-five, all of which were carefully examined as much as time would allow, and 13 selected as follows:—

J. M. Fiddell, Mt. Vernon, best Stallion, 1st premium, \$5.00; Aaron Cogswell, Mt. Vernon, 2d do., 4.00.

On Matched Horses.

Wayne, one pair matched carriage horses, 1st premium, \$4.00.

On Farm and Carriage Horses. J. N. Fogg, Readfield, best farm or work horse, 1st premium \$4.00; Lewis H. Blake, Mt. Vernon, best carriage horse, 2d do., 3.00.

On Breeding Mares and Foals. Samuel Tuck, Fayette, best mare and foal, 1st premium, \$3.00; N. T. Robinson, Mt. Vernon, 2d do., 2.00.

On Three years old Colts. J. L. Leadbetter, Wayne, best three years old gelding, 1st premium, \$3.00; H. S. Nickerson, No. Wayne, 2d do., 2.00.

On two years old Colts. Thomas Weeks, Wayne, best two years old colt, 1st premium, \$2.00; Wm. S. Fox, Wayne, 2d do., 1.50.

On year old Colts. J. P. Russell, Fayette, best year old colt, 1st premium, \$1.50; T. Wing, Wayne, 2d do., 1.00.

The committee have been most favorably impressed by the fine display and show of horses, and deem it their duty to, and to award a gratuity of one dollar to each of the following named gentlemen.

Gratuities. Daniel Chandler of Winthrop, for breeding mare and foal, \$1.00; George Palmer, Readfield, for three years old colt, 1.00; Daniel Fillebrown, North Wayne, for his three years old colt, 1.00; E. Kimball, East Livermore, for his carriage horse, 1.00. Messrs. W. S. Macomber, of Winthrop, David Stevens, North Wayne, and N. T. Robinson, of Fayette, presented very fine breeding mares well worthy of a premium. W. HUNTON, per order.

On Working Oxen.

In this department of the show, old Kennebec has beaten herself and the State. The number of entries exceeded those of any previous year, and the competition was beyond anything we have before witnessed. It is not to be expected that oxen taken green from field or pasture, in high flesh, unaccustomed to daily toil and training, will be under so good discipline as those which are accustomed to the yoke daily, and fed and trained for the draught. Neither can we expect oxen or men, not accustomed to public exhibitions, to do as they would at home, on their own soil. There is a certain feeling of excitement or nervousness that creeps upon almost every man and ox, at such times, which makes him appear unlike himself. We do not mean to say that all oxen or men are affected alike. Some will appear better, and others the reverse. We have to judge of them as exhibited to us, and if we have failed to do justice to the competitors, it is because we have erred in judgment. It is extremely difficult for a committee to make the selections satisfactorily to their own feelings, where there is so much that is good, and so nearly balanced.

There were thirty-eight entries for working oxen, as follows:—From Wayne, seven; Winthrop, seven; Readfield, nine; East Livermore, nine; Fayette, five; Mt. Vernon, one. Twenty-nine pairs appeared for exhibition.

The committee were unanimous in giving the first premium of \$5.00 to Albion Stevens, of Mt. Vernon, for his yoke 6 years old, girth 7 ft. 6 in. This pair drew first, in order to test the situation of the ground, so that we might be able to make all due allowance. We called them again, when the others had done, and they drew as readily as at first.

We had more hesitation on the other premium, but decided to give the 2d premium, \$4.00, to Eliza Pettigrew, East Livermore, yoke 6 yrs. old, girth 7 ft. 4 in.; 3d premium, \$3.00, to Benj. Palmer, Readfield, yoke 6 yrs. old, girth 7 ft. 2 in.; 4th premium, \$2.50, to G. M. Truitt, Wayne, yoke 5 years old, girth 6 ft. 9 in.; 5th premium, \$2.00, to Henry Atkinson, Winthrop, yoke 5 years old, girth 7 ft.

There were four pairs of four years old oxen which hauled on a lighter load than the older oxen, and appeared well. We recommend that a gratuity of \$2.00 each be awarded to John Record, East Livermore, for his 4 yrs. old oxen, girth 7 ft. 3 in., and Charles Lombard, Readfield, for his 4 yrs. old oxen, girth 6 ft. 7 in. This last pair worked together like two men, and exhibited their strength in the most scientific manner of any pair upon the ground. A pair of oxen, of their age, that will draw at a load that is more than a match for them, as they did, is worthy of a prize. There were many others that exhibited good courage and training, and among the many we would mention those of Messrs. J. B. Swanton, Osgood Graves, Alonzo Cheley, and Otis Robinson, and the small oxen presented by Mr. Ira Dalton.

The drawing match is increasing in interest and attention. No part of the exhibition is so

exciting. We would recommend for the consideration of the Society another set of premiums for the 4 years old oxen. You cannot fail to see that when oxen draw on two loads, of different weight, it is hard for a committee to judge of their strength. To obviate this difficulty, we recommend two sets of premiums in future. S. N. WATSON, per order.

On Cows, Heifers and Heifer Calves.

Best Durham cow, Mayflower, owned by Mr. Jesse Wadsworth, of East Livermore, 1st premium; Durham cow Stella, owned by the same, 2d premium.

Mr. Daniel True, of Wayne, best grade cow, 1st premium; Mr. Charles Gott, of Wayne, 2d premium.

Mr. Leonard L. Wing, of Wayne, best Native cow, 1st premium; Wellington Huntton, Esq., of Wayne, 2d premium.

Mr. John Keizer, of East Winthrop, best two years old grade heifer, 1st premium; Mr. Leonard L. Wing, of Wayne, 2d premium.

Mr. Jesse Wadsworth, of East Livermore, best one year old Durham heifer, 1st premium.

Mr. J. H. Underwood, of Fayette, best one year old grade heifer, 1st premium; Mr. Daniel True, of Wayne, 2d premium.

Mr. Joseph Underwood, of Fayette, best grade calf, 1st premium.

Your committee would further state that there was quite a number of excellent cows on the ground, among which we would mention two owned by Mr. Jonathan Mower, Esq., of Turner. One a full blood Durham, which is second to no cow that we saw. The other a grade cow, which appeared first rate. We would therefore recommend a gratuity on those two cows. BRADLEY SYLVESTER, per order.

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On Sheep and Swine.

There was no Merino or Saxony buck entered, but in the opinion of your committee was deserving the first premium. Your second premium, we award to Squire Bishop. For best buck of any other breed, we award the society's first premium to Richard Berry; for best ewe, or more, we award the society's first premium to Daniel True, and second do., to Daniel Craig.

Your committee award the society's first premium of two dollars to W. M. Ladd for his full blood Suffolk boar. We also award Mr. Ladd the first premium for breeding sow; second do., to Wm. Morrison. For best six pigs of one litter we award the first premium to John Keizer; the second do., to Wm. Morrison. Mr. Ladd would have taken the first premium on pigs, if the sow had laid on one and killed it,—we therefore recommend a gratuity to Mr. Ladd, if the funds of the society will warrant it. There was another boar on the ground that would have taken the second premium if he had been entered. T. WOOD, per order.

WIND SUCKING.

This detestable habit in horses may be cured, so say contributors to the Ohio Cultivator, by the following process:—

Wind sucking is a habit, (like chewing tobacco), much easier acquired than forgotten. It can only be practiced, however under unfavorable circumstances—that is, when there is some object on which the horse can rest his teeth, located about as high as his breast—such as a common manger, for instance. The best remedy, therefore, is to place the feeding trough, low as the ground or floor of the stable, and the hay-rack as high as the horse can reach; and so that there is no object of an intermediate height for him to rest his teeth upon to suck wind. Care must also be taken when out of the stable, he is not allowed to stand near a fence or stump, or any object of convenient height for practicing this habit. In the course of a few months, say five or six, he will forget the trick. G. BATHAM.

ANOTHER REMEDY. Tie a cord around the neck of the horse sufficiently tight to prevent him from enlarging the throat, as is done in wind sucking, but not so tight as to obstruct breathing or swallowing. A tight halter, with throat strap, will answer this purpose. It will need to be worn two or three months. This remedy is easy, and I have found it quite effectual. A SUBSCRIBER.

PREPARING POULTRY FOR MARKET.

The following article on this important subject will constitute a Chapter in the forthcoming new and improved edition of the "American Poultryers' Companion," by C. N. Bement, to be published by Harper & Brother, of New York:

If you wish to prepare your poultry in the nicest manner for the market, so that it will invariably secure the best price, observe the following rules, viz:

First, fat them well, and allow them to remain in the pens twenty-four hours without food, previous to being killed. Then, when you kill them, instead of wringing their necks, cut their heads off at a single blow with a sharp axe or hatchet, hang them up by their legs and allow them to bleed, and pick them immediately—picking off their wing feathers, as well as the others, while warm. Some, however, prefer to run a small penknife into the jugular vein by the side of the neck, just under the jaw. In this case let the heads remain on; pick them as above mentioned; in picking, great care should be taken not to tear the skin; the wings should be cut off, but not picked to the end. If the head should be cut off, the skin of the neck should be neatly tied over the end. Most people like to see the heads of fowls left on—it makes a better show. The heads of ducks and geese should be cut off. No cut should be made in the breast, all the oil should be taken out behind, and the opening should be made as small as possible.

Some persons send them to market with their intestines in. This, to say the least, is a dirty, slovenly practice, doing great injury to the flesh, as it partakes of the flavor of the excrement when suffered long to remain undressed, and is otherwise impaired from the stagnant blood. After removing the intestines, wipe out the blood with a dry cloth, but no water should be used to cleanse them. With a moist cloth take off the blood that may be found upon the carcass, and hang them up in a cool, dry room, until ready to carry to market, or otherwise to be used. Do not remove the gizzard from its place, but if the fowl be very fat, make a larger hole, turn the leaves out, and fasten them with a small skewer. When prepared in this way, your poultry will be much nicer, and entitled to better price than when butchered and dressed in the ordinary way.

We have often noticed the careless, slovenly manner, and little attention paid to the external appearance of poultry offered for sale in our markets; and we have also noticed the rapid sale and higher price where due regard was paid to have skin all sound, and clean; the breast not mutilated by a long cut, the shrinking skin exposing the drying meat covered with hay-seed or chaff, but well covered all over with fat, of a rich golden yellow. Much of the poultry exposed for sale has been through the process of scalding to facilitate picking; this practice should never be resorted to. It turns the rich yellow of the fat into a tallowy hue, and often times starts the skin, so that it peels off, unless carefully handled.

Much care and attention is required after the poultry is dressed and cool. It should be carefully packed in baskets or boxes, and above all, it should be kept from the frost. A friend, who was very nice in these matters, used to bring his fowls to market in a box covered with hay-seed, and always obtained a ready sale and the highest price. His method was to pick them, dry, while warm, and dress them in the nearest manner; then take a long, deep, narrow, tight box, with a stack running from end to end of the box, and hanging the turkeys by the leg over the stack, which prevents bruising or disfiguring them in the least.

Too much should not be exposed at a time for sale, nor should they be hauled over too often. Appearance is everything with poultry, as well as other articles, and has great influence on the purchaser.

"To preserve poultry in winter," said the late Judge Bul, "about the 15th of November I purchased a quantity of poultry for winter use. The inmates were carefully drawn, their places partially filled with charcoal, and the poultry hung in an airy loft. It was used through the winter, till about the first of February, and although some were kept seventy days, it was not the least affected with moist or taint, the charcoal keeping it sweet."

MACHINERY IN FARMING.

It is not enough that farmers avail themselves of all the advantages which chemistry affords in its application to their art: it is not enough that they learn how to save as much as possible of the manures made on their premises, and the best method of applying them; and also purchase specific manures; it is not enough that they know at what seasons and at what depths their soils should be cultivated. They must perform as many of the operations of farming by machinery, as machinery can be made to perform to advantage.

There is no other way in which agriculture can keep pace in respectability, pleasure and profit, with the other arts. Without this expedient, it will be outstripped by them and sink into comparative rank. By machinery, as we use the word here, we mean all the mechanical contrivances which can be substituted for manual labor and combined with mechanical labor so as to increase its productiveness. And the policy which we recommend includes also animal labor as a substitute for human labor, and as a powerful co-operator with it.

So far as a horse or an ox can be made to do the work of five men, the horse or the ox earns the net product of five men's labor for the employer. If one man cultivates as much corn, and cultivates it as well, with one horse attached to a cultivator, and one man, as his neighbor cultivates with ten horses in the hands of ten men, it is easy to see which of the two is traveling fastest on the road to wealth.

So in cutting grass, in planting and harvesting grain, in shelling corn, and in various other operations of the farm, machines can do the work for a small per centage of the cost of manual labor. [Independent Examiner.]

CORN POETRY.

We find in the Iroquois Free Press some poetry upon "Indian Corn," written in a style a little homely, but after all with a kind of ring about it which may commend it to the boys. The verses go off in a real strong Mormon sort of way.

The West can boast of glorious streams,
And prairie's grandest lawn—
Of lake and forest old and green,
But most of Indian corn.

From peaceful sleep the plowman wakes,
And rises with the morn,
Deep furrows all day long he makes
Through rows of Indian corn—

Long rows of Indian corn—
The sweet when summer suns go down,
When winds have ceased to blow,
To list its rustling, crackling sound,
And think we hear it grow;

It seems so glad to grow,
I love to pull it from the stalk
When it is in the milk, and talk
Of its soft shining silk—
Its glossy folds, its silk.

And when at noon arise our dais,
Our work for bell or horn,
Or give us a dish of succotash,
Or ears of Indian corn—
Hot ears of tender corn.

I'll take it with a true delight,
And eat and drink and be merry,
For nothing tempts the appetite
Like ears of roasted corn—
Sweet ears of roasted corn.

Then when its sheaves stand thick about,
And fruits the fields adorn,
How gushes out the merry shout
From huskers of the corn—
The yellow, golden corn.

Where freedom floats on every breeze,
And fields of Indian corn,
As spread out on the land like seas!
I joy that I was born—
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